

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-LC-R-04-04

Issued at Juneau, Tuesday
April 27, 2004

Effective 12:01 A.M. Sunday,
Date: May 16, 2004

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Tuesday,
November 30, 2004 unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order modifies sport fishing seasons, bag and possession limits and, for non-resident and guided anglers only, establishes minimum and maximum size limits, for lingcod in Southeast Alaska.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.020 (7) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(7) lingcod:

- (A) In northern Southeast Alaska north of a line from Beacon Point to Wood Point, from Point Camden to Salt Point Light, west of the longitude of the Cape Decision Light, north of 56° N. lat., and east of 137° longitude; lingcod may be taken from May 16 – June 15 and from August 16 – November 30 as follows:
 - i. Non-guided Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
 - ii. Nonresidents and guided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 40-inch maximum size limit.
- (B) In waters along the outer coast of Prince of Wales Island south of 56° N. lat., west of 131° 40' W. long., and south of 54° 50' N. lat.; lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30 as follows:
 - i. Non-guided Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
 - ii. Nonresidents and guided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, 30-inch minimum and 40-inch maximum size limit.
- (C) In remaining waters of Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30; bag and possession limit of 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
- (D) In all waters between the longitude of Cape Spencer and 137° longitude, lingcod may be taken May 16 – November 30 as follows:
 - i. Non-guided Alaska residents: 1 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit;
 - ii. Nonresidents and guided anglers: 1 per day, 2 in possession, 32-inch minimum and 42-inch maximum size limit.

JUSTIFICATION:

In February 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries substantially changed management of lingcod fisheries in Southeast Alaska in response to indications of a widespread decline in abundance. At that time, the Board established a guideline harvest level (GHL) management approach for sport and commercial fisheries in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 28.160 (e)), reduced allowable harvests by setting the GHL lower than recent harvest levels, and allocated the GHL among sport and commercial fisheries for seven management areas (5 AAC 28.165). The Board also delegated the Department extended authority to modify regulations to achieve lingcod allocations to the sport fishery (5 AAC 47.060).

During 2003, estimated harvests of lingcod in the sport fishery fell near or below allocations (range -27 to 5 percent) in five management areas that comprise northern Southeast Alaska and waters between Cape Suckling and Cape Fairweather as described above. In management areas roughly comparable to the outer coast of Prince of Wales and the Ketchikan areas described above, lingcod harvests in 2003 fell substantially below allocations (-60% and -53%, respectively). Based on recent effort and harvest trends, comparable harvest levels would be expected for 2004 under regulations similar to those in effect during 2003. Regulations established for northern Southeast Alaska and waters between Cape Suckling and Cape Fairweather by this emergency order are identical to those in effect during 2003. However, regulations established for the outer coast of Prince of Wales and the Ketchikan area by this action are not as restrictive as those in effect during 2003, when a seasonal closure in the Prince of Wales Island area and a size limit in the Ketchikan area, in addition to the provisions of this emergency order, were in effect. This action is necessary to ensure that sport harvests of lingcod do not exceed regulatory harvest allocations to the sport fishery.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.

Kevin C. Duffy
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Tom Brookover
Regional Management Coordinator
Division of Sport Fish